

CONT.
F1
A. Associating each of at least two control devices with respective of at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users;

B. Associating at least one field of view of the at least one camera with a respective control device at a location selected by a respective of at least two users;

C. Remembering each field of view of at least one camera associated in step B;

D. issuing a command from one control device of the at least two control devices;

E. identifying the control device that issued the command in step D; and

F. automatically moving the field of view of the at least one camera to the field of view position remembered in step C and associated with the control device identified in step E.

G Sub I²
110. The method of Claim 109 wherein step C includes the steps of:
G. issuing commands from each of the control devices^{at step A} to remember a field of view position of the camera^A and

H. remembering the control device that issued the respective command in step G.

111. The method of Claim 110 wherein step F includes the step of:

G I. moving the field of view of the camera^A to the field of view position remembered in step G associated with the remembered control device of step H that issued the respective command.

CONT.
F1
112. The method of Claim 109 wherein step C includes the step of:
^H
~~E~~. remembering the position of ^A~~the~~ camera field of view with respect to a known reference.

G
G
113. The method of Claim 112 wherein step ^H~~G~~ includes the step of:
^I
~~H~~. remembering the position of ^A~~the~~ camera field of view in a first plane.

G
G
114. The method of Claim 112 wherein step ^H~~G~~ includes the step of:
^I
~~H~~. remembering the position of ^A~~the~~ camera field of view in two planes.

T2
cancel.
G
G
115. The method of Claim 109 wherein step C includes the steps of:
^H
~~E~~. remembering specific variables of ^A~~the~~ camera for each field of view remembered; and
^I
~~H~~. automatically recalling the remembered variables when the field of view is recalled in step F.

G
G
116. The method of Claim 115 wherein step ^H~~G~~ includes the step of:
^I
~~E~~. remembering the iris setting of ^A~~the~~ camera field of view.

G
G
117. The method of Claim 115 wherein step ^H~~G~~ includes the step of:
^I
~~E~~. remembering the zoom perspective of ^A~~the~~ camera field of view.

G
G
118. The method of Claim 117 further including the step of:
^I
~~E~~. automatically maintaining the zoom perspective remembered in step F when ^A~~the~~ camera field of view is moved in step F.

Sub
G2
119. The method of Claim 115 wherein step G includes the steps of:
I. remembering the position of the camera field of view in at least one plane;

CONT.
F₁
J. remembering the zoom perspective of the camera field of view; and

K. remembering the iris setting of the camera field of view.

120. The method of Claim 119 wherein step F includes the steps of:

L. moving the position of the camera field of view to the remembered position of step I;

M. changing the zoom perspective of the camera to the remembered perspective of step J; and

N. changing the iris setting of the camera to the remembered setting of step K.

Sub I⁴
G₁
G₂
G₃
121. The method of Claim 109 further including the step of:

^H
~~E~~. issuing a command to override subsequent commands from ~~other~~ ^A control devices affecting control of the field of view of ~~the~~ camera.

----- 122. The method of Claim 121 further including the step of: -----

^I
~~F~~. issuing a command to restore the responsive capability of the means for controlling the field of view to commands from ~~other~~ control devices.

Sub G₃
123. The method of Claim 109 further including the steps of:

G. controlling the field of view variables of the camera;

H. remembering the field of view variables of the camera that are associated with each field of view position remembered in step C; and

I. automatically establishing for the camera the field of view variables remembered in step H for the field of view position remembered in step C whenever the field of view position is recalled.

124. The method of Claim 109 wherein step C includes the step of:

G. remembering a specific field of view position that can be recalled by a command from any control device.

125. The method of Claim 124 wherein step G includes the step of:

H. issuing a command by a control device to change the field of view to the specific field of view position remembered in step C.

126. A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a system including at least two cameras, an automatic control system for controlling the field of view of each camera and at least two control devices being movable respectively by at least two users independently of the automatic control system and the at least two cameras to a selected location capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the respective camera comprising the steps of:

A. associating each of the at least two control devices with respective at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users;

B. associating at least one field of view of each of at least two cameras with a respective control device at locations selected by a respective at least two users;

C. Remembering each field of view of at least two cameras associated in step B.

D. issuing a command from a control device of the at least two control devices;

E. identifying the control device that issued the command in step D;

F. associating each of the at least two control devices with a respective camera of the at least two cameras; and

G. changing the field of view position of one of the at least two cameras associated with a field of view remembered in step C to provide a field of view position remembered in step C associated with the control device identified in step E.

127. The method of Claim 126 wherein step C includes the steps of:

H. issuing commands from each of ^{at least two} the control devices to remember different field of view positions of each camera; and

I. remembering the control device that issued the respective command.

128. The method of Claim 127 further including the step of:

J. automatically recalling the remembered field of view when the field of view is moved in step G.

129. The method of Claim 128 wherein step C includes the step of:

K. remembering ^Athe zoom perspective of each camera field of view.

130. The method of Claim 126 further including the steps of:

^I
^H
^S
L. providing by each camera a video output signal; and
M. selectively providing a camera video output signal from a camera.

131. The method of Claim 130 wherein the step ^S~~L~~ includes the step of:

^S
~~L~~. automatically selecting the camera video output signal associated with the camera of step G.

132. The method of Claim 126 wherein step C includes the step of:

^I
~~H~~. remembering a specific field of view position that can be recalled by a command from any control device.

133. The method of Claim 132 wherein step ^I~~H~~ includes the step of:

^S
^L
~~H~~. issuing a command by a control device to change the field of view to the specific field of view position remembered in step C.

134. The method of Claim 126 further including the steps of:

H. selectively enabling the transmission of an audio signal associated with one or more control devices; and

I. automatically selecting which control device will transmit an audio signal.

Sub I¹⁰
CONT. G
F₁
135. The method of Claim 134 further including the step of:
 ^B automatically selecting the audio signal from the control device identified in step C.

136. The method of Claim 135 wherein step ^K includes the step of:
 K. automatically disabling audio signals associated with the control devices not selected.

Sub G₅
137. The method of Claim 134 wherein step I includes the step of:
 J. automatically selecting audio signals associated with all control devices wherever any control device is identified in step E.

Sub I¹²
G
138. The method of Claim 134 wherein step ^I includes the steps of:
 ^B establishing a plurality of groups of control devices; and
 ^L selectively enabling audio signals associated with at least one group of control devices.

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G
139. The method of Claim 138 wherein step ^J includes the step of:
 ^M automatically selecting the audio signals associated with the group of control devices enabled in step J.

G
140. The method of Claim 138 wherein step ^K includes the step of:
 ^M automatically selecting the audio signals associated with the group of control devices to which the control device of step E belongs.

G
141. The method of Claim 126 further including the steps of:
 ^I providing an automatic tracking system for the at least two cameras;
 ^J issuing a second command for automatic tracking of ^A the control device that issued the command of step D; and
 ^K controlling the field of view in step G to

CONT.
F1 G
automatically track the control device of step D.

142. The method of Claim 141 wherein step ³~~X~~ includes the step of:
^L~~X~~. issuing a command by a control device to provide the automatic tracking of the control device only for as long as the command is being continuously issued.

143. The method of Claim 141 wherein step D includes the step of:
^L~~X~~. issuing a command by ~~another~~ ^A control device to provide automatic tracking of ~~the other~~ ^{another} control device and the cessation of automatic tracking of the one control device.

144. The method of Claim 141 further including the steps of:
^L~~X~~. providing by each camera a video output signal; and
^M~~Z~~. selectively providing a camera video output signal from a camera.

145. The method of Claim 144 wherein step ^M~~Z~~ includes the step of:
^N~~Z~~. ~~automatically selecting the camera video output~~ signal associated with the camera of step F.

146. The method of Claim 141 wherein step C includes the step of:
^L~~X~~. remembering a specific field of view position for at least one of the cameras that can be recalled by a command from ^A~~any~~ control device.

147. The method of Claim 146 wherein step ^L~~X~~ includes the step of:
^M~~Z~~. issuing a command by ^A~~any~~ control device to change the field of view to the specific field of view position remembered in step C.

148. The method of Claim 141 further including the step of:

CONT. F1 ^G
^G ~~X.~~ ^L issuing a command to override subsequent commands affecting the control of ^A ~~the~~ field of view of the camera.

149. The method of Claim 148 further including the step of:

^G ^G ~~X.~~ ^M issuing a command to restore the responsive capability to commands from ^{each} ~~other~~ control devices.

150. The method of Claim 141 further including the steps of:

^G ^L remembering field of view variables for ~~the~~ ^A control device being tracked; and

I12 cancel. ^M recalling remembered variables when the control device is being automatically tracked.

151. The method of Claim 141 further including the step of:

^G ^G ~~X.~~ ^L ^A remembering variables associated with automatic tracking of ~~the~~ control device.

^G 152. The method of Claim 151 wherein step ^L ~~X.~~ includes the step of:

^G ^M ~~X.~~ ^A remembering the location in the field of view that ~~the~~ control device is to be maintained during automatic tracking.

^G 153. The method of Claim 141 wherein step ^I ~~X.~~ includes the step of:

^L ~~X.~~ issuing a command by a control device to provide the automatic tracking of the control device only for as long as the command is being continuously issued.

Sub G6 154. The method of Claim 141 wherein step ^I includes the step of:

^K issuing a command by another control device to provide for automatic tracking of the other control device and the cessation of automatic tracking of the one control device.

155. The method of Claim 141 wherein step J includes the step of:

K. ceasing the automatic tracking of the control device that issued the command when the tracking system has moved to the desired location with the field of view of the camera relative to the control device.

156. The method of Claim 141 further including the steps of:

K. selectively enabling the transmission of an audio signal associated with one or more control device; and

L. automatically selecting which control device will transmit an audio signal.

157. The method of Claim 156 further including the step of:

M. automatically selecting the audio signal from the control device identified in step E.

158. The method of Claim 157 wherein step ^M includes the step of:

^N M. automatically disabling audio signals associated with ^A the control device not selected.

159. The method of Claim 156 wherein step ^M includes the step of:

^N M. automatically selecting audio signals associated with all control devices wherever any subject is tracked.

160. The method of Claim 156 wherein step L includes the steps of:

M. establishing a plurality of groups of control devices; and

N. selectively enabling audio signals associated with at least one group of control devices.

Sub I 16
161. The method of Claim 160 wherein step ^M includes the step
of:

CONT. G
F₁ G ^P automatically selecting the audio signals associated
with the group of control devices enabled in step N.

sub
G8 162. The method of Claim 161 wherein step M includes the step
of:

P. automatically selecting the audio signals associated
with the group of control device to which the control device
being tracked belongs.

163. A system for controlling the field of view control variables of any camera
in the system comprising at least one camera, automatic control means for adjusting
said field of view control variables of said camera, at least two control devices
being movable respectively by at least two users independently of said automatic
control means and said at least one camera, said automatic control means including
means for associating each of said at least two control devices with respective at
least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two
users and for associating said field of view of said at least one camera with said
respective control device at a location selected by a respective of at least two
users, said control devices being movable to selected locations for sending commands
to said automatic control means thereby adjusting said field of view of said at
least one camera, said automatic control means including circuit means for identifying
which said control device of said at least two control devices in said selected loca-
tion has sent a command to said automatic control means.

164. The system as defined in Claim 163 wherein said circuit
means includes memory means for remembering specific variables
associated with each field of view.

165. The system as defined in Claim 163 wherein said automatic
control means includes memory means for identifying each said
command sent by each said control device, said command including
identity information indicative of respective said control device
which sent said command, said automatic control means remembering
said identify information to enable said field of view to be
moved to one of the fields of view remembered.